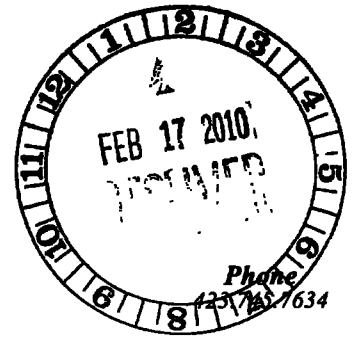




Office of the County Mayor

6 East Madison Avenue
Athens, Tennessee 37303

John M. Gentry
County Mayor



February 2, 2010

FILING FEE WAIVED

Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: CSX Transportation Abandonment of the Athens Branch in McMinn County, Tennessee, (STB Docket No. AB-55/Sub No. 694X)

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing on behalf of McMinn County, Tennessee to request a 180 day extension of the deadline for negotiations with CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT"), regarding the Notice of Interim Trail Use in the above captioned proceeding with respect to the 6.4 mile portion of the line ("the Athens Branch") that extends northwest from near Englewood to Athens. (between OKW327.0 and OKW333.4 including both spurs located after OKW 332). Pursuant to the August 12, 2009 decision ("the Decision") of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires March 11, 2010 ("Negotiating Deadline").

CSXT is currently conducting an appraisal of the line. We expect to be able to enter negotiations after completion of the appraisal.

The County respectfully requests an extension to September 6, 2010 (180 calendar days for the Negotiating Deadline). CSX Transportation has acknowledged that it concurs with this request and will file a letter of concurrence once it receives a copy of this letter.

In addition, the County respectfully requests a waiver of the Boards filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Gentry
McMinn County Mayor

cc: Bruce McMahon

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

FEB 17 2010

Part of
Public Record